

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. This type of action has gotten terribly out of hand. A good number of citizens feel that information is force fed to them on a daily basis. Some citizens also recognize that relationships with advertisers are more important than actually connecting with the pulse of the country. This display of consumerism needs to stop and it should be on your shoulders to change the standards. Quit worrying about decency (although an important facet of your work) as much, and focus on the integrity of these stations. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.